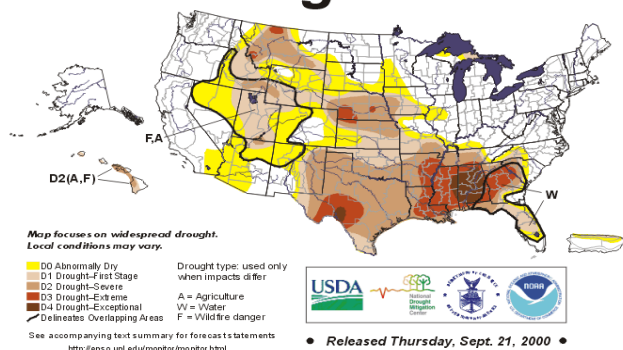


September 19, 2000 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

# U.S. Drought Monitor



The USDA's drought monitor shows most of Utah in the first stages of drought with some areas in severe conditions.

The following rainfall information is supplied by Utah State University's Utah Climate Center and reports information for the week of Sept. 9 - 15, 2000.

Location	Precipitation since Oct. 1, 1999	
	Accumulation	% of normal
Statewide	10.08	71
Western Utah	5.74	72
Delta	5.96	77
Milford	7.65	82
St. George	4.98	63
Farmington	18.63	84
Logan USU	10.23	55
Provo BYU	12.62	62
Heber	9.92	63
Salt Lake City	13.27	85
Tooele	13.83	76
Cedar City	8.57	79
Escalante	5.54	58
Kanab	9.39	68
Nephi	12.42	86
Panguitch	5.32	54
Uinta Basin	5.49	65
Duchesne	6.45	68
Blanding	8.93	72
Hanksville	2.01	37

## Utah Organic Rule Comments Sought

A public meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. in the main conference room of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Building, 350 North Redwood Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Utah Organic Standards Rule (R68-20) has been submitted and final comment will be received. The rule is set to go into effect October 17, 2000. Anyone wishing to submit written comments should do so before 5:00 p.m., October 16, 2000.

Please mail comments to: Organic Rule, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Box 146500, Salt Lake City, UT, 84114-6500, or email comments to: [agmain.swintert@state.ut.us](mailto:agmain.swintert@state.ut.us).

The full text of the rule is available at: [www.ag.state.ut.us](http://www.ag.state.ut.us).

## COMMISSIONER PETERSON SUPPORTS MONTANA HAY DONATION PROGRAM

Utah commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson is encouraging Utah hay growers to donate any surplus hay to drought and fire stricken ranchers in Montana through that state's "I Care A Ton" program. The program seeks donations of hay, pasture, fencing supplies, transportation or monetary assistance to those who are most in need.

"Utah ranchers are in much the same peril as those in Montana, but I extend the offer here to those who may have excess hay to help where you can," said Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson.

The I Care A Ton program is being coordinated through the Montana Farm Bureau Federation in conjunction with the Montana Department of Agriculture. Any donation to the program is tax-deductible.

More information on how to donate hay is available at the Montana Farm Bureau (406) 587-3153 or [www.mfbf](http://www.mfbf).

# UTAH AG NEWS

OCTOBER 2000

# 2000

Agriculture: Your Food Resource

on the

web



Governor  
Leavitt  
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food

Michael O.  
Cary G.

# UDAF Names Ken Gee 1999 Employee of the Year

By: Cary G. Peterson  
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food

Many capable and dedicated people serve the citizens of Utah as employees of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. There is one impressive employee who receives little public exposure, works largely behind the scenes, and plays a vital support role in computer programming and system maintenance. That is why I am happy to select Administrative Services' Programmer/Analyst, Ken Gee as this year's Employee of the Year.

## Above And Beyond

On many occasions Ken works nights and weekends to perform system upgrades so that users will not have to deal with the LAN being down during work hours. The recent upgrade of our network from Token Ring to Ethernet is a good example of this. After the state ITS office notified UDAF of the upgrade, Ken took the time to get information on the best way to do the upgrade, chose hardware and software, and trained and supervised the rest of the IT staff so that they could assist with the conversion. It was a huge task and now it not only provides better service to the department, but offers substantial savings as well. Ken has been with the department for 16 years.

Ken is dedicated to providing good customer service to all department employees. Frequently that includes deciding which problem, out of many, is the most critical and needs to be resolved as soon as physically possible. Ken's decisions are made on the priority basis of keeping the most users up and running for the greatest amount of the time. Needless to say, this type of work can be very stressful, since it is so deadline driven. Ken has the technical knowledge, patience and sense of humor to deal with anything that comes his way.

The level of trust placed in Ken with highly confidential information has never been breached. The long unusual working hours to write computer programs and perform computer upgrades denotes perseverance,

skill and loyalty to the department.

The Utah Legislature created an Employee Recognition Statute (67-19c-101), to recognize an outstanding employee in each department of state government. The UDAF is implementing this recognition in the department for the first time.

The award guidelines are: By April of each year nominations for outstanding employee will be taken from employees. The Commissioner will select and announce the employee of the year. Criteria for selection will be: (a) extraordinary competence in performing their functions; (b) creativity in identifying problems and devising workable, cost-effective solutions to them; (c) excellent relationships with the public and other employees; (d) commitment to serving the public as the client; (e) and a commitment to economy and efficiency in government. Funds set aside by the Legislature will be awarded to the recipient.



*Ken Gee helps receptionist Cheryl Morrison enter information into the department's computerized Help Desk. Ken was selected the Department's 1999 Employee of the Year, in part, because of his willingness to help*

## Service Awards Luncheon Coming in November

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food employee's service awards luncheon is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday, November 6, 2000 at the State Office Building Auditorium. All UDAF employees will be given time off from their duties to be able to attend the luncheon.

Special guest speaker is Dr. Eric Stephan, Professor, Department of Organizational Behavior from Brigham Young University.

Division directors will present their annual service awards certificates to employees. In addition, the department's "Employee of the Year" will be recognized. This is a new award created this past year.

**To help with seating and food preparation, those planning on attending are requested to make a reservation by Monday, October 30th. Contact Eileen Frisbey by email or at (801) 538-7105.**

## EMPLOYEE NEWS

**Ruth Garner** is Administrative Services' new **Applications Programmer**. Ruth comes to the department from Dynasys where she was a programmer. **Donald Nerdin** is Regulatory Services' new **Weights and Measurers Inspector**. Donald was previously employed as a Foreman by Evan Parker. **Dave Oberhansley** is Animal Industry's new **Brand Inspector**. Dave was previously employed as a Driver for Blaine Evans Trucking.